

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed October 22, 2007 ("Office Action"). At the time of the *Office Action*, Claims 26-30 and 32-49 were pending, of which, the Examiner rejected Claims 26-30 and 32-47 and objected to Claims 48 and 49. Applicant has amended Claims 26, 44, and 49 and has canceled Claim 48. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute claims that are similar or identical to canceled or amended claims previously pending in this patent application, in one or more continuing patent applications (e.g., continuations, continuations-in-part) that claim priority to the present application. Applicant respectfully requests favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication by the Examiner that Claims 48 and 49 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, as set forth in the *Office Action* and to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

Solely to advance prosecution of this case and without conceding the veracity of the rejections made by the Examiner with respect to the remaining claims that were pending as of the *Office Action*, Applicant has rewritten Claim 48 into independent form by amending Claim 26 to include the limitations of Claim 48. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully contends that Claim 26 and each of its dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Additionally, Applicant has made identical amendments to Claim 44 as those made to Claim 26. Accordingly, for reasons similar to those discussed with respect to Claim 26, Applicant respectfully contends that Claim 44 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, Applicant has amended Claims 26 and 44 in a fashion whereby the Examiner's rejections under §112, second paragraph, have been rendered moot. Consequently, Applicant respectfully contends that all claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all pending Claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicant stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicant believes no fee is due. However, should there be a fee discrepancy, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. **02-0384** of **Baker Botts L.L.P.**

Respectfully submitted,

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